



468 South Perry Street ♦ P. O. Box 300900 ♦ Montgomery, AL 36130-0900 ♦ (334) 242-3184
www.preserveala.org

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Contact: Ellen Mertins
Oct. 9-13: cell 334-430-6723
334-230-2657 office
ellen.mertins@preserveala.org

INZER HOUSE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS STATEWIDE RESTORATION AWARD

The Inzer House Museum Board received the Alabama Historical Commission's Roy Swayze Award for excellence in restoration on Friday, October 10, during the Alabama Preservation Conference. The annual awards presentation was held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama, according to Frank W. White, Executive Director of the Alabama Historical Commission. Congressman Jo Bonner officiated at the ceremony.

There is a difference between restoration and rehabilitation and Roy Swayze knew what it was. When Swayze and his wife Mary moved to Eutaw, Alabama from Washington, D.C. in the 1980s, they undertook the painstaking restoration of Rosemount, one of Alabama's great plantation homes.

Their achievement is commemorated by this award, which is given only to a project that meets the high standards Swayze set for himself. It is not given every year. The John W. Inzer Museum board members are committed to meeting this standard as they turn one of St. Clair County's landmarks into a museum.

The 1852 Greek Revival home of Lt. Col. and Judge John Washington Inzer in Ashville is a treasure chest. It was filled with original furniture, artifacts and documents. But years of neglect had produced rotting porches, decaying plaster, and a leaking roof.

Museum Board and its crew of volunteers have spent the past 10 years meticulously restoring the exterior and interior, as funds became available. The museum is now open, staffed with volunteers, and is a major tourist attraction in the county.

It is for their sound preservation decisions and commitment to excellence that the Alabama Historical Commission recognized the John W. Inzer Museum with its Roy Swayze Award.

Ben Hestley accepted the award on behalf of the museum board at the awards luncheon in Point Clear.

This year's conference **Historic Preservation: The Original Green** (www.preserveala.org) promoted awareness that historic preservation is inherently energy efficient.

Architect Joseph Smith from Madison, Georgia, led **Inherently Green and Intentionally Greener**, a historic homeowner workshop teaching why our historic homes are energy efficient and how we can make them more so.

Architect John Williams from Seattle, Washington gave the keynote address "**Saving Historic Resources Sustains Communities**" and led an afternoon workshop on how to rehab historic buildings without destroying their character.

The Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) underwrote the speakers on sustainability. Angier Johnson, director of the PSC's Consumer Education Initiative, introduced the keynote speaker. The Consumer Education Initiative seeks to educate consumers on the importance and benefits of energy efficiency in their homes.

The Alabama Preservation Conference is held annually by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Black Heritage Council.